

JUNE 2025



ZERO BEAT

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

What's Inside

- Museum Ships Weekend
- PPRAA Field Day 2025
- VE Sessions
- Contact Zero Beat
- Save the Date

Commemorating the *USS Pueblo* during Museum Ships Weekend

"The bands are horrible!" was a common phrase heard at the Pueblo Convention Center on Saturday, June 7, as PPRAA members convened to commemorate the *USS Pueblo* for Museum Ships weekend. Last year we had a big kickoff for this event, with the showing of a documentary about the capture of the ship by North Korea, and three clubs joining forces to cover all bands and modes.

DON'T MISS

PPRAA Field Day 2025!

See Page 4!



Continued Page 2



Museum Ships cont.

In 2025, getting the *Pueblo* on the air presented more challenges: Pueblo clubs had scheduling conflicts, so we had fewer stations and antennas in operation. With reduced club participation came reduced funding, so we did not operate for the full duration of Museum Ships weekend, but only rented a room in the Pueblo Convention Center for Saturday.

Then, to top things off, a coronal mass ejection (CME) on June 3 made headlines for making auroras visible on June 7, but also had a huge effect on ionospheric propagation as well. We were able to talk to stations from coast to coast, but only for very limited windows of time, and we also observed extremely quick band fading as remote stations went from blasting-loud to lost in the noise floor in as short as two to three seconds.

PPRAA would like to recognize the patient efforts of operator Tricia/K0TRD who made a noteworthy ship-to-ship contact with the *USS Batfish*, a World War II submarine on display as a museum ship in Muskogee, Oklahoma. This submarine made news in 2019 when she floated free during the flooding of the Arkansas River. At first the rapid band fading made it impossible to talk to the *Batfish*, but Tricia kept calling until conditions improved slightly, and she was able to break through the pileup, make the contact, and even tell the story of the *USS Pueblo* on the air for many other stations to hear.

Continued Page 3

Museum Ships cont.

While band conditions were poor, Doug/N7LEM and Diana/KC0NPP came equipped with weak-signal mode laptops and radios that proved to be the right tools for the job. They operated on FT8 throughout the event, making over a hundred contacts and allowing many ship-chasers the chance to log us despite the tough circumstances. Dan/W0OJW from the Pueblo West club also came well-equipped with a Morse code key, and made a few CW contacts while conditions allowed.



PPRAA would especially like to thank the Jennie & Albert Gersick Foundation, VFW Post 5221, and PPRAA board members Rick/KE0GVU and Kathy/AE0UX, who

made generous donations that made this event possible. It was an excellent chance to show off amateur radio resilience, flexibility to operate on different bands and modes that could do the job despite poor ionospheric conditions, and teamwork as we built antennas on the roof of the convention center and coordinated between the stations. We hope such generosity, kindness, and capability on display for Museum Ships weekend reflects well on the crew and the ordeal of the *USS Pueblo*, and honors them as they deserve.



The high holy holiday of hams, Field Day, kicks off this coming weekend. Hams want to know: can we set up off-grid, using only the generators, solar panels, radios, tuners, antennas, and coaxial cables we can pack in our vehicles, and work the world? How many states can we contact? How many modes can we exercise? Can we send useful emergency-style traffic, or make contact over a cubesat? Can we make a lot of contacts? Best of all: can we have a good time doing it with friends?

Let's find out! Here are the details:

Where:

Address: Mountain View Electric Association
11140 E Woodmen Rd, Falcon CO 80831

Directions: From E Woodmen Rd, turn North on Golden Sage Rd at 38.94071, -104.63164, then take Woodmen Frontage Rd east to the Mountain View parking lot, 38.94116, -104.61850



Continued Page 5

PPRAA Field Day 2025 cont.

When:

Campers and shelters set up: Friday morning, June 27

Radios, antennas set up: Friday 1200 hrs, June 27

Operations begin: Saturday 1200 hrs, June 28

Potluck dinner: Saturday evening, June 28

Sunday breakfast: Sunday morning, June 29

Operations end/Tear-down begins: Sunday 1200 hrs, June 29





Field Day 2025

How to participate:

- Extra hands are always appreciated during setup and tear-down. If you can be on site Friday after noon and Sunday after noon, the antenna owners will provide guidance on how to help. This is a great way to become familiar with a variety of antennas.
- If you're coming for dinner, we'd love to have some side dishes, drinks, and desserts for the potluck.
- Operators are especially needed for the late-night/wee-hours shifts. If you can work a SSB pileup, know CW, or are good with FT8, we'd like to keep the finals hot all night long! This is an especially good time for those looking to improve their skills on the air, as one-on-one coaching is available with fewer distractions late at night, and then you can get plenty of practice until dawn.
- New hams and unlicensed prospective hams are encouraged to work the "Get On The Air" (GOTA) station. You get a special call sign, guidance from an experienced operator, a script to read from, and a whole nation full of hams who want to talk to you for points! Only those licensed within the past year, upgraded within the past year, or still unlicensed are eligible, so new hams get to be the big bonus-point winners at field day.

Field Day 2025 cont

- Know any scouts? Invite them to earn their radio badge from experienced scout instructors with a class starting early Saturday morning.
- Don't forget the most fun part: making new friends, and catching up with old friends! Bring a camp chair, enjoy a meal with us, and bring your best ham-radio tall tales to tell.

See you there!



Scouts at Field Day



FREE Radio Licensing Test Sessions
Second Saturday of every month
Testing begins at 10 am
Please arrive by 9:30 am
to get signed in and get instructions.
Location: Pikes Peak Regional
Office of Emergency Management
3755 Mark Dabbling Blvd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
ve@ppraa.org

Contact Zero Beat

Do you have photos of PPRAA events you'd like to share, or news from the ham radio world that the club might like to hear? Please email zerobeat@ppraa.org to share your ideas and pictures.



General Membership meeting (09 JUL 2025) will be both in-person and virtual

Location: Golden Corral
1970 Waynoka Rd, Colorado Springs

The business meeting starts at 7 PM, but you may get your dinner and beverage of choice and check in any time after 6 PM for a social hour. Club members check your email for info or email Officers@PPRAA.org to receive the Zoom information.

Summer Support Your Parks Weekend
July 19-20, 2025
Watch PPRAA.org for more information.

PPRAA Megafest 2025 Cancelled

Due to a compilation of circumstances the PPRAA Board of Directors has reluctantly decided to cancel MegaFest for 2025.